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Possibility on Activities of Community Network in Urban Renewal

— Case study in Ayutthaya —

Toshinobu FUJII*, Yasuhiko SASAKI**

Abstract

On waves of the decentralization in administrations, participatory planning in local areas has become popular in all over the world and it would be indispensable to implement a development of low income community in urban areas. However, since an urban poor community usually lacks of skill and fund to put a plan into practice, it possibly organizes cooperation with other communities to get power and to make it. Though networking is advocated to be one of effective ways for a community development, its activity which would diversify has not be evaluated sufficiently. Urban renewal would be successful if community networks that are CODI's primary development strategy, have been organized between communities on their initiative.

Firstly, the way in which CODI (Community Organization Development Institute) organize community networks is reviewed. Secondly, activities of informal communities in Ayutthaya are introduced. Thirdly, activities of the community network in Ayutthaya are analyzed through various projects carried out by the community network. Finally, based on the analysis, the possibility on activities by community networks and their issues are discussed. In conclusion, these are pointed out ; 1) saving groups/communities organize working groups in the community network to undertake temporary projects, 2) with a initiative of each saving group/community, activities of the community network have two characters that are regional one and theme-oriented one, 3) a community network should be taken up as activities to make a breakthrough in urban renewal, 4) as community networks have tended to be in popular especially among low-income people in developing countries, it seems to have a possibility to be adopted in developed countries.

Keywords : Community Development, Community Network, Housing and Environmental Improvement, Ayutthaya

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1. Backgrounds

In Asian cities, regional transformations are taking place in quite diversified ways to meet the socio-economic changes. However, these changes have been found inadequate in meeting the needs of community improvements, which are taken as one of the essential sectors in the field of regional development. Experiences of past projects implemented in urban areas by official/public agencies showed that the approach of a “top-down” way had often failed in coping with the current situation. Reviewing the past activities, other approaches with bottom-up ways have been started for community developments, especially for aiming at alleviating poverty problems, preserving environmental conditions and preparing social welfare systems. Since in Asian cities, the process-oriented participatory planning has begun to be adopted in community developments, and communities have come to be expected to develop with their initiatives, there still lie some difficult problems in each community beyond their own controls. In Thailand, supported by CODI (Community Organization Development Institute), community networks have organized to solve them through equivalent relationships within communities. Activities of the network seem to have a certain possibility in way of improving urban environment. There are little studies about the activities of community network among previous researches for the slum development in Thailand, although studies on participatory community development have been often published.

The paper focuses on the activities on community network that are CODI's primary development strategy, based on advanced researches after the former paper in which housing improvements in the community network was mainly analyzed¹⁾. Firstly, the way in which CODI organize community networks are reviewed in chapter²⁾. Secondly, activities of informal communities in Ayutthaya are introduced in chapter³⁾. Thirdly, activities of the community network in Ayutthaya are analyzed through various projects carried out by the community network in chapter^{4~6)}. Finally, based on the analysis, the possibility on activities by community networks and their issues are discussed in chapter⁷⁾.

2. Community Network supported by CODI

Reorganizing of UCDO (Urban Community Development Organization) that had been established in 1992 and taken an active part in micro-credit to low-income

groups/communities, CODI has started since 2000, to improve living environments and strengthen organizational capacity of urban communities by the promotion of community savings and credits. As been a development fund and a government public institution, CODI has supported establishing of saving groups and organization of community networks in more than 30,000 communities throughout the country, with fund for 10 types of loans like housing, network strengthening, income generation etc. , and has offered necessary information to groups/communities. Total amount of loans disbursed by CODI was counted 1,503 million Baht (Jan. 2002). The activities of community network supported by CODI would be one of noticeable way for improving environment. The organizations of networks are classified to three vertically spatial levels; local, regional and nationwide (Figure 1). As it is shown in like a bottom-up way, community networks are organized in local level with several groups/communities, and members of them consist of a local committee, of which representative is to be also a member of regional committee. In national level, 25 members of 5 regional committees consist of a national committee which is directly belonging to CODI, for implementing community developments.

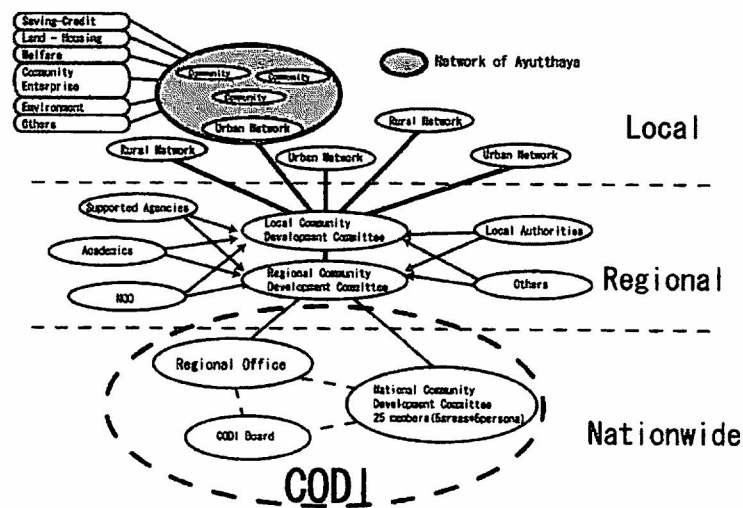


Figure 1 ; organization of CODI source ; CODI

CODI (UCDO) has supported to community developments from the beginning, as well as loaned each group or community for housing, infrastructure, income generation, welfare, community enterprise and revolving loan. As communities related with CODI have increased beyond the control, it has begun to weigh on organizing and supporting community network with providing information and technical supports after the economic crisis, 1997-1998.

According to CODI (UCDO), advantages of networking on improving project are explained as follows ; 1) getting more loan to organize several saving groups/ communities, 2) becoming easier to negotiate with third parties in the relation with other communities, 3) accessing readily to information for community developments, with holding initiatives and characteristics of each community.

Main objectives of established community networks are diversified, as groups/ communities are organized for improving physical environment, housing, creating income generation and revolving loans of member's households.

In Thailand, 600 or more saving groups have organized community networks supported by CODI. Numbers of the networks counted 120 in Jan. 2002, that are involved in various community development activities like housing, environmental improvement, income generation, community enterprise and community welfare. However, a half of them are in Bangkok. The list of networks in Bangkok seems to be shown various activities of community networks, in which 11 are organized mainly for housing and environment, 6 are for community enterprises, and 33 are for setting up saving groups in specified regions for environmental improvement and revolving loan (Figure 2).

Network about Houses and Environment		5/0-08	Network of Taxi Cooperation in Thailand	17/1-17	Network in Khron Toi
1/1-35	Network about Development and Harmony	6/0-09	Network of Sewing in Center of Bangkok	18/1-18	Saving Group Network in Minbri
2/4-01	Community Housing Cooperation Meeting in Thailand	Network which works in Bangkok		19/1-20	Cooperation Network for Development
3/4-02	Community Development Center by Housewife	1/1-01	Saving Group Network in Chat Chack, Puyar Thai	20/1-21	Central Credit Cooperation Meeting
4/4-03	Community Cooperation Network in Tonburi	2/1-02	Saving Group Network in Pam Supattana	21/1-24	Network in Yhan Nawa
5/4-04	Environmental Network in Yhan Nawa	3/1-03	Saving Group Network in Kanna Yaau	22/1-27	Network in Noar Khem
6/4-05	Network about Community Development and Small Canal Environmental	4/1-04	Saving Group Network in Pam Kapi	23/1-28	Network in Brawe
7/4-06	Environmental Network in Barn:unthian	5/1-05	Saving Group Network in Sulwon	24/1-29	Network in Bunkn
8/4-07	Network in Phrarermsem	6/1-06	Saving Group Network in Bam Kohlem	25/1-31	Saving Network in Tonburi
9/4-08	Community Network at Southwest Rail Line	7/1-07	Tonburi	26/1-32	Network in Beckamsal Lwammit
10/4-09	Community in Small Canal	8/1-08	Saving Group Network in Tonburi, Parshi Chalun	27/1-34	Network of Saving Fund Center every day
11/4-10	Community Network for Development	9/1-09	Saving Group Network in Ratt Purane	Network in rural areas	
Network about Community Enterprises		10/1-10	Network in Lomkra Oratt Klapan	1/4-48	Network of Saving Credit Bank every day
1/0-01	Network which Supports Handicrafts in Bangkok	11/1-11	Network in Phra Kanon Barna	Network which works in Region	
2/0-02	Network about Community Enterprise in Bangkok	12/1-12	Network in Nom Chok	1/1-36	Saving Group of Islam in Thailand
3/0-03	Network for Construction Group	13/1-13	Saving Group Network in Dushit	2/6-1	Credit Cooperation Group in Thailand
4/0-04	Occupation Group Network in Wanton Ram	14/1-14	Saving Group Network in Saimai, Parnten	3/6-3	Social People Network in Thailand
		15/1-15	Saving Group Network in Rakusi Donmwan	4/6-5	Network Group in Santhia Sok
		16/1-16	Network in Faikwan Dhinden	5/6-9	Network for Women

Figure 2 ; list of networks in Bangkok source ; CODI

3. Informal Communities in Ayutthaya

The Ayutthaya city is 76 km north of Bangkok, which holds population of about 70,000. Most lands of the central area in island of Ayutthaya are owned by public agencies. Many worldwide historic monuments are there, where low-income people are living in informal communities near the monuments. To conserve the monuments as "The World Heritage" and promote tourism, government has designated the area as the historical improvement zones in the master plan.

Recently, with the support of the government, CODI has started a new project “Security for Land and House”, in which 20 cities including Ayutthaya are put in for environmental improvement in collaboration with administrations, NGOs and universities. CODI is going to support each community in Ayutthaya to make a

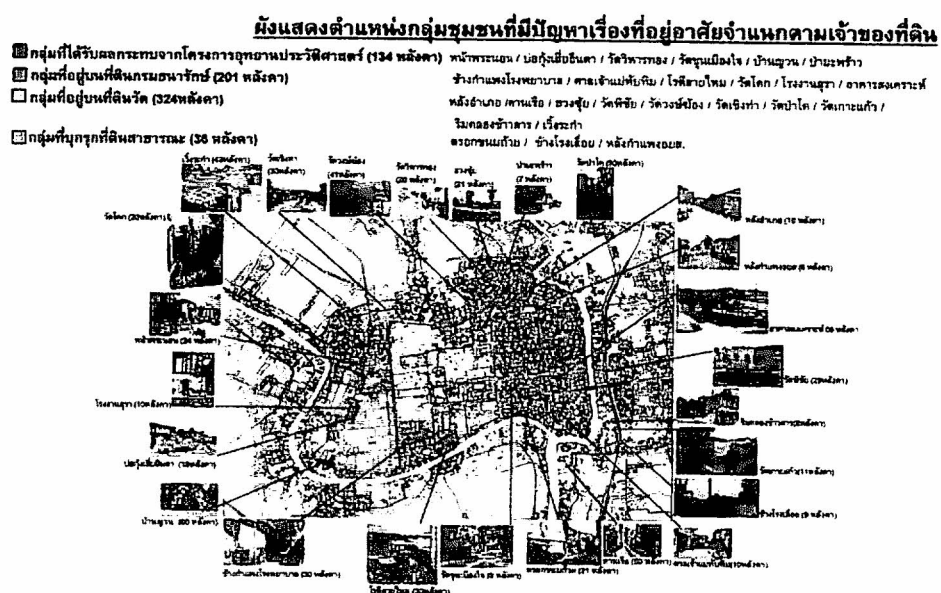


Figure 3; community development plan in Ayutthaya source: CODI

plan for a suitable development among on-site improvement, re-blocking, reconstruction and relocation, along with the community network (Figure 3).

4. Establishment of Community Network in Ayutthaya

A community network in Ayutthaya had been organized with saving groups for mainly improving living environment. In 1998, the first saving group had been established in Arkarn Songkroh community. They had started saving activities with the support of CODI. When 8 saving groups were set up in 1999, they began

NO.	How to take land	Land Owner	Houses	Families	Population	Population Density	House Condition	Water Supply	Electric Supply	Waste Disposing	Road Condition	registration	Network
1	Cultivated Land	a	6	10		○	△	○	○	●	A	x	-
2	Leased Land	b	20	50		●	△	○	○	△	C	x	-
3	Leased Land + Cultivated Land	a + b	20	30		○	○+●	●	●	○	C	x	-
4	Leased Land	b	70	140		△	○	○	○	●	A+B	x	-
5	Leased Land + Private	b	31	45		○	○+●	○	○	●	C	x	-
6	Leased Land	a	48	70		△	△	○	○	●	D	x	-
7	Leased Land	a	26	26		●	△	○	○	●	D-E-B	x	-
8	Leased Land + Cultivated Land	a + b + d	10	15		○	△	○	○	△	B+C+A	x	-
9	Problem about rent	b	20	40	150	●	△	△	△	●	A+D	x	-
10	Leased Land	a	23	34		○	○+●	○	○	△	A+H	x	-
11	Leased Land + Cultivated Land	a	18	36		○	○+●	○	○	△	A+C	x	-
12	Cultivated Land	a	15	22		○	○+●	△	△	●	A	x	-
13	Leased Land	a	22	44		○	○+●	○	○	○	A	x	-
14	Leased Land	a	28	28		△	○	○	○	●	A	x	-
15	rent in arrears	a	18	33	115	△	△	△	△	△	A	x	member
16	Leased Land	a	20	30		○	○+●	○	○	△	A	x	-
17	rent in arrears	a	40	60		○	○+●	○	○	●	F	x	-
18	Permit a rent in arrears	b	70	120		△	○+●	○	○	△	F	x	-
19	rent in arrears	a	20	30		○	○	○	○	●	-	x	-
20	Leased Land	a + b	40	50		△	○+●	○	○	△	C	x	-
21	Leased Land	b	29	45	200	●	△	○	○	△	A+B	x	member
22	Leased Land	a	20	30		△	○+●	○	○	△	C	x	-
23	Leased Land	a	46	70		△	△	○	○	△	F	x	-
24	Cultivated Land	a	25	50		△	△	○	○	●	A	x	-
25	Leased Land	a + b	45	70		○	○+●	○	○	△	F	x	-
26	Leased Land	a	13	13		○	○+●	○	○	●	A	x	-
27	Leased Land	a	150	225		○	○+●	○	○	△	F	x	-
28	Leased Land	b	40	60		●	○+●	○	○	△	F+B	x	-
29	Rented House + Private	c	180	220	1495	△	○	○	○	△	C	○	-
30	Leased Land - Private + Rented House	a + b + c	266	266	1300	△	○+●	○	○	△	F	○	member
31	Leased Land	a	327	491	544	△	○+●	△	△	△	D	○	-
32	-	a	137	205	520	○	○	○	○	○	C	○	-
33	Leased Land - Private	c + b	150	180	530	△	○+●	○	○	○	G	○	member
34	Leased Land - Private	e	350	380	766	●	△	○	○	△	A+G	○	member
35	Leased Land - Rented House	a	204	254	971	△	○	○	○	○	A+C+F	○	member
36	Leased Land - Rented House	a	120	125	445	△	○	○	○	○	G	○	member
37	Private	c	76	130	385	○	○	○	○	○	A+C	○	member
38	Leased Land + Private	c + b	100	112	550	○	○+●	○	○	△	A+F	○	member
39	Leased Land from Fine Art	a	300	300	1041	●	△	○	○	△	G	○	-
40	Cultivated Land	a	200	200	748	△	○	○	○	●	C	○	-
41	Leased Land	e	80	120	504	△	△	○	○	△	A	○	-
42	Leased Land	e	41	62	184	●	△	○	○	△	A	○	-
43	Cultivated Land	a	80	120	289	△	○+●	○	○	○	F+C	○	member
44	Cultivated Land	a	150	200	781	●	○+●	○	○	○	C	○	member
45	Leased Land + Private	a + b	190	285	927	△	○	○	○	○	F	○	member
46	Cultivated Land	a	67	66	265	●	△	○	○	△	C	○	member
47	Leased Land + Rented House	a	180	250	475	△	○+●	○	○	△	F	○	-
48	Private	c	61	92	250	△	○	○	○	○	A+F	○	-
49	Leased Land	e	70	105	470	△	△	○	○	○	A+F+C	○	-
50	Leased Land	a	70	70	475	●	△	△	△	△	C+B	○	-
51	Leased Land + Private	a + b + c	477	650	2759	○	○+●	○	○	△	A+F+B+C	○	-
52	Leased Land	e	120	180	500	△	○+●	○	○	○	D+C	○	-
53	Leased Land + Private	a + c	60	70	297	△	○+●	○	○	●	D+F	○	-

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Land Owner	Population Density	House	Water Supply	Electric Supply	Waste Disposing	Road
a . Government	○ Low	◎ Good	○ House Connection	○ House Meter	○ Incinerate at house	A. Soil
b . Temple	△ Regular	○ Regular	△ Public Stand Pipe	△ Public Meter	△ Public Disposal	B. Wood
c . Community	● High	△ slightly Broken	× Temple	× Temple	● Illegal Dumping	C. Concrete
d . Resident		● Broken				D. Fill in up
e . Mosque		▲ too Broken				E. Cement
						F. Mixing
						G. Asphalt

Figure 4; outline of communities in Ayutthaya

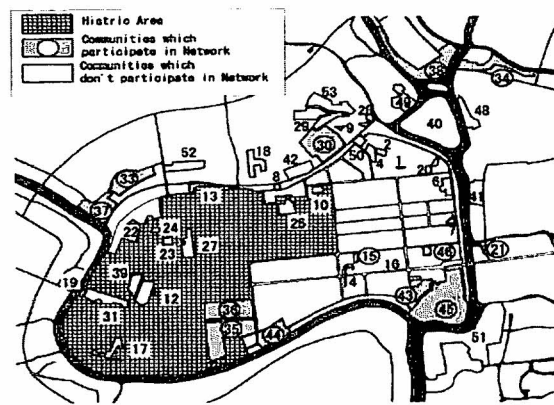


Figure 5 ; locations of communities in Ayutthaya

to share activities that would be effective to work in cooperate with each other. The network had expanded to organize 13 saving groups/communities, with 650 household members in 2001 (Figure 5). Among the communities in the network, unregistered communities are included, because the network committee has admitted any groups/communities to participate in if they have organized saving groups or agreed with the activities of the network. Each group has come to recognize a possibility of network through working together in environmental projects such as a constructing concrete walkway in Wat Sara Poon community. The network activities have brought to groups/communities a view that they have been able to make decisions by themselves. Getting power by organizing a mass, the network enabled communities to receive public loans such as Miyazawa fundⁱ⁾, DANCED fundⁱⁱ⁾ and SIF fundⁱⁱⁱ⁾. Setting a high valuation on activities of the network through the community investigation operated in 2000, municipality has come to implement environmental projects in cooperation with the network.

5. Activities of Communities in the Network

5-1. Subjects of each community in the network

10 communities in the network were investigated in March, Jun and August, 2002, to focus on subjects of communities which had been discussed among saving groups/communities. Location, characteristics, saving activities and accepted amount of fund etc. in the communities are shown in figure 6. The two are pointed out as following, 1) one is that the subjects of communities in the network differ from each other, like housing, infrastructure, flood, enterprise, relocation, revolving fund and hygiene, 2) other is that accepted amount of public fund tends to relate

with saving activities. Carrying out their aims through the micro-credit, saving groups are also found to playing an important role in communities.

Number of Figure 4	Name of Community	Location & History	Characteristics and Land Conditions	Saving Activity	Saving amount per household (Baht)	Fund amount from Miyazawa (Baht)	Fund amount from SIF (Baht)
15	Trok Kanomutay	Connect to the main road on one side Immigrated from rural area 50 years ago Most residents are relatives to each other	Possibility of relocation for construction road Lack of drainage system Lane was concreted	The community saving set up to save 100 Baht/month per household and 200 Baht/month for land acquisition necessary at the time of relocation	570	440,000	55,000
21	Wat Pitchai	Adjacent to the station Abutting on the main road Immigrated 50 years ago	Negotiation with temple for opposing to relocation Old and rotten houses Infrastructure is under construction	One year has passed since the start of group saving of monthly 100 Baht per household.	62	0	0
30	Wat Inta Ram	The north of outside of the island Immigrated 30 years ago Organized a committee 2 years ago	Possibility of relocation for preservation of history area	Six months have passed since the start of group saving of monthly 100 Baht per household. Total saving amount is 20000 Baht.	74	0	0
33	Wat Sara Poon	The north-west of outside of the island On a hill along the road	To get submerged frequently Cat walk was constructed	They have stopped saving activity	336	0	0
35	Suwang Somde	The south of inside of the island In a low damp area	There are many poor who don't have houses or enough income Project of Breeding catfish started	They have stopped saving activity	0	0	139,400
36	Sir Sanphet	Adjacent to the medical center In a low damp area Constructed 50 years ago They suffered from a big flood 6 years ago	They produce smoked catfish, eggs and nuts through community enterprise.	Three years have passed since the start of group saving of monthly 100 or more Baht per household	1,118	330,000	129,600
38	Wat Tong Pu	The island isolated by rivers Immigrated over 60 years ago	The transportation to the island is inconvenient. Saving is mainly for revolving	Three months have passed since the start of group saving of monthly 100 or more Baht per household	369	380,000	221,500
43	San Tyome Taphin	The south east inside of the island In the historic preservation area	Possibility of relocation for preservation of the historic area There are many poor who are unemployed	Six months have passed since the start of group saving of monthly 100 Baht per household	167	0	80,600
45	Pom Phet	One of the biggest communities in Ayutthaya Adjacent to primary school and medical center	There built the community network shop, that is not operated because of difficulty in management	100 Baht are saved every month per household The saving amount is 400,000 Baht in the whole community.	1,074	500,000	0
46	Arkarn Songkroh	Inside of a block. Not connect directly to the main road Public housings built 40 years ago Overpopulated by increasing in households	Congestion. lack of drainage system Narrow and old walkway. Uneasy housing insurance On-site housing project was completed	Three years have passed since the start of group saving	3,338	490,000	198,000

Figure 6; outline of communities in the Ayutthaya network

5-2. Case Studies on community activities

Since a saving group has a possibility of showing leadership in a community, a community development would be successful if a saving group keeps on a reliable relationship with their community through accepting funds and introducing supporting parties. Activities of communities in collaboration with saving groups, the community network and public sectors etc. are shown below, in a case of reconstruction, building a community shop, on-site improvement, and negotiation with landowner.

a) Arkarn Songkroh with reconstruction

In 2002, Arkarn Songkroh being one of leading community in the network had completed on-site housing project for 2 years. This project has been taken notice of people concerned as a pilot community development implemented by the initiative of community in cooperation with the network and public agencies (Photo 1, 2).

Municipality built 40 units of public row houses for accommodating people facing fire burnt problem more than 40 years ago. As population had increased, residents built more houses in the open space. The community became congested with dilapidated houses, unpaved walkway and damaged drainage pipes (Photo 1). With the support of architects sent by CODI, they had meetings to discuss how they could live together in the community and have secure housings. There had been different opinions first among the residents, however, they could reach an accordant in the end through negotiations called by the network and public agencies. Architects helped them sketch out their ideas, which are the followings : 1) constructing basic facilities such as walkways and sewerages that are able to satisfy the standards set by administration, 2) rebuilding low housings that accommodate 66 units, retaining the wide open space in the center of the areas. Almost all the members of the community have kept on



Photo 2 ; Arkarn Songkroh after housing project



Photo 1 ; Arkarn Songkroh before housing project

saving to receive housing funds from the network. They agreed to construct houses on site with municipality as the first pilot project. They have also got the rental contract for 30 years. The amount of saving 485,880 Baht made it possible to receive loan 4,859,000 Baht and enabled the launch of the project. The construction budget per one household is about 80,000 Baht. NHA (National Housing Authority) had covered cost 2,664,000 Baht for constructing infrastructure. Pay back amount per household has been planed monthly 300-500 Baht for 15 years. Land rented fee is 1 Baht/4sq.m/year. Rent-to-hold rights for new houses will come after 15 years of loan payment.

Three factors are pointed out to make the project successful. Firstly, there was a strong leadership in the community to lead people for the pilot project. The leader had been former chairmen of the network as well as a member of administrative committee, and participated enthusiastically in community activities. Secondly, residents have kept on intimate relationship, for they are living in the community in a long time. Thirdly, the settlement locating in-between the main road made it possible to have the plan of on-site reconstruction.

b) Pom Phet with a community shop

The network has the community shop in Pom Phet community, which was built to sell the goods produced in groups/communities (Photo 3). Through managing the shop, the network has intended to generate jobs to the members of the community network. Although it had been expected to open in 2001, it is postponing because of a financial problem.



Photo 3; the community shop in Pom Phet

c) Wat Sara Poon with on-site improvement

As this community had often got submerged, the residents had wished to build a concrete walkway. The network supported them to construct a catwalk with DANCED and Miyazawa fund (Photo 4).

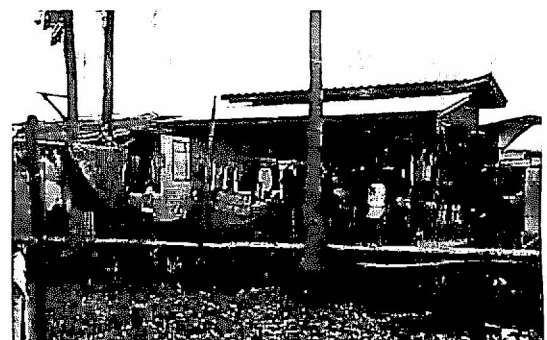


Photo 4; the catwalk in Wat Sara Poon

Its length is about 90m. The residents cooperated to construct it. Although this community has already stopped saving activities after implementing the project because of a difficulty in management, it is still a member of the network (the study conducted in February 2001).

d) Trok Kanomutuay with on-site improvement

The Trok Kanomutuay community has settled 50 years before in the center area of the island, where has been planned for roads in the city plan. As the residents received the notice to move out, they requested government to help them stay in the community. In 1998, the residents knew that saving groups in the other communities were organized and begun to work together. They have set up a saving group and participated in the network. Having been a member of the network, residents are supported by the CODI staff, and able to exchange information and visit to proceeding project sites.

A proposal plan was made by both residents and professional architects sent by CODI. The contents of the plan are followings ; 1) improving drain system and securing houses adjusting lot sizes, 2) leasing the present land in long term and rebuilding houses in the community. Since these proposals have been well received by the residents, they had come to understand their living environment. The community started to build a concrete walkway (2m wide) and improved public square in the community in cooperation with the network. Construction was completed in 4 days. Drainage is not yet completed, but trees were planted along the walkway. Pay back plan is to return 100 Baht a month for 20 months. Concrete walkway and improved public square have created better atmosphere in the community. It would encourage the residents furthermore that the discussion held among project leaders in the public square was televised for long hours nationwide. However, sanitation problems are not yet solved, as walkway has no side ditches. Residents also have been anxious about happening of relocation because the site is planned for road officially. They have started saving for relocation.

e) Wat Pitchai with negotiation to stay in

In Wat Pitchai community, 29 households settle on the temple land. A group in the community has started saving of monthly 100 Baht per a household since 2000. The community had got message to remove from the temple site because the

temple had intended to use the land for the other purpose. Residents wanted to stay in, as the site was a convenient location for living in the city. To negotiate with the temple, they made a proposal plan with architects sent by CODI to improve environment. Network's support and coordinating movement made it possible for the residents to remain in the land, as the temple agreed to the contract of lease land for more 15 years in December 2001, with rental fee of 300 Baht/a year/household. As it could be seen in the process of negotiation between the community and the temple, that the network had played a role on sharing of common information and leading to the solution, which would probably be impossible if done by individuals.

6. Characteristics of Network in Ayutthaya

6-1. Comparison with network activities in two cities

According to CODI, the ideal process of forming network should be endogenous like that, at first, a saving group in a community starts to make a small relationship with groups in other communities, next, these groups come to have a regular meeting to corporate with each other, and then organize a community network supported by CODI to implement objectives of them. On the other hand, activities of network would be able to influence on city planning when a network could organizes communities in city-wide. In the case of Nakhon Sawan, municipality has taken an initiative to organize a community network in city-wide, in cooperation with NHA and CODI.

The Ayutthaya network is compared with that of the Nakhon Sawan, located 220km north of Bangkok (the study conducted in March 2000 and in February 2001). Nakhon Sawan being at an advantageous location for both land and river transportation has an economic potentiality for development that could absorb abundant employments and captivate number of low-income people into the city. Therefore, 26% of whole citizens belong to informal communities, and poor housing conditions have long been a big issue. 53 slum communities have been listed by the national slum research.

To ameliorate the housing condition of community areas, municipality with NHA and CODI have decided to back up the networks organized among 53 communities. City building floor has been provided partially as the network office for the management of group savings and planning of communities. In 1999, they began to make a plan of improving housing & environment of informal communities

in the whole city. They have sorted out each community to be developed on-site or relocated to other site, depending on each environmental condition related to land use. Then they had chosen a relocation site of about 40ha, 15km at a distance from the city center, mostly owned by public. Architects sent by CODI drew the master plan and made relocation program that would start in 2001. However, the project was suspended in February 2001. In the Nakohn Sawan case, “top-to-down” administrative leadership seemed to be dominating the project that had caused serious discordance between community leaders and the residents. Unlike the case in the Nakhon Sawan, the proposed plans and projects in the Ayutthaya may be less difficult to implement for communities since they allow each community to develop or improve their environment by themselves.

6-2. Characteristics of the network in Ayutthaya

The membership of the network is basically given to the group that manages saving activities and locates in the same region. Routine activities of the network in Ayutthaya have been carried on by working groups that are organized among the members of saving groups, under the control of the committee. With the support of CODI, working groups have undertaken temporary projects such as, 1) persuading people in communities to participate in saving activities, and supporting saving activities for solving private debts by using revolving loan from CODI or other public funds, 2) exchanging and sharing information for income generation and management of welfare programs, 3) researching on ways of improving housing and environment with public funds (Miyazawa and SIF).

The committee of the network has held a meeting every month. It has carried out study tours, seminars for learning from other networks and having meetings to discuss about the activities of the network. It has two steering sub-committees, the enlightenment committee and the fund loan committee. In addition, to control and manage the activities of network, it has also an inspecting committee and an accounting section. The committee members are selected by vote of members. Each committee’s role is shown in figure 7.

The chairman of the committee pointed out “4M” -Man, Money, Management, Material - were key words for managing the network. And he stressed three subjects were to be implemented for strengthening the network ; 1) improving skills of management in communities, 2) coping with increasing in unemployment, 3) calling for other groups/communities to participate in the network.

The committee is able to advice a group/community to leave the network, when its saving activity happens to breaks up. In that case, the committee should pay the debt caused by the group/community and return all the amount of saving money but the commission fee to them. As a matter of fact, some communities that stopped to continue saving activities or have no saving group from now on are found in the network, since the effectiveness of saving activities are well accepted to them. It is seen in the process of organizing the network that groups/communities have invited to participate in partly through an acquaintance of members.

The following characteristics are summarized in the Ayutthaya community network.

1) Network members are residents who are basically engaging in saving activities in each group/community (Figure 9). They tend to aim at implementing development not only of their own life but also of their community. This shows that regional characteristics of a community have reflected on their activities.

2) In the network, there are some communities that stopped to continue saving activity. It is seen, in the process of organizing a network, that groups/communities have invited to participate in partly through an acquaintance of members. Actually, the characteristic of the network can be pointed out as some loose organization that has been fundamentally put on human relationship rather than on economic base, with the exception of accepting public fund. So that number of groups/communities in the network changes easily in accordance with their initiatives.

3) Activities currently needed and performed in each community have been shown a variety, as special characteristics have been found in the activities that communities have taken as their themes, from housing to hygiene (Figure 8). Such groups/communities that have same themes in the network are connected to work

Committees of Network	Committees Activities
Enlightenment Committee	Give Members Knowledge of Savings and Development
	Connect the other Organizations
Fund Loan Committee	Research Borrowers and Loan Mortgages
	Examine Member's Loan Application
	Control all of Loan and Mortgages
Inspect Committee	Control and Improve Committee's Activities and Management
Accounting Section	Record revenue and Expenditure of Network
	Financial management of Network
	Control and total amounts of Accounting Book

Figure 7; committee in the network

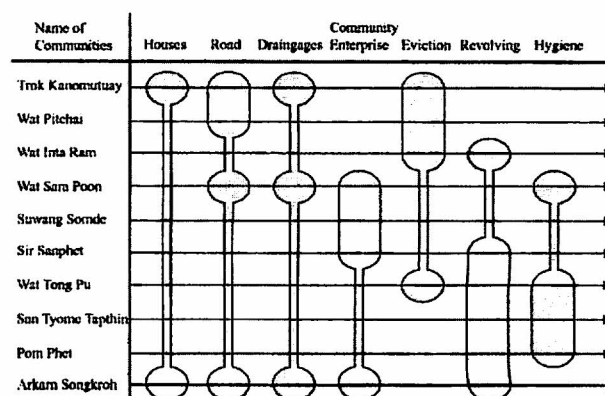


Figure 8; network activities in Ayutthaya

together any time. As a whole, the network, making an arena, has played a role of facilitator between groups/communities.

Organization of Community Network in Ayutthaya

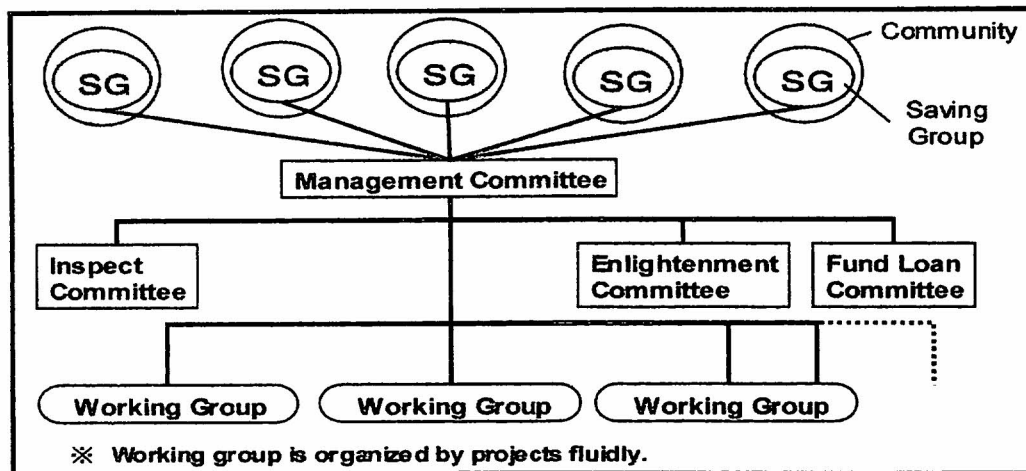


Figure 9 ; organization on community network

7. Conclusion

7-1. Possibility of a community network

The network in Ayutthaya is organized according to the objectives of each group/community. Through learning and informative activities, exchange of experiences in regional life and mutual encouragement are conducted to cope with community development. Expecting the activities of networks for linking between informal and formal sectors, CODI has played roles to concatenate various issues of community development to networks and strengthen organization through exchange of experiences of communities. The network in Ayutthaya should be one of successful case for CODI.

These conclusions are taken in the activities of the community network.

- 1) Organizing a network as members , saving groups have two roles, one is to lead their communities with introducing fund and supporting parties, the other is to organize working groups in the network to undertake temporary projects,
- 2) Activities of the community network have been analyzed from the two points. One is autonomous and regional characteristics, because each saving group/ community has taken also a part of the activities of community to live in. The other is its theme-oriented characteristic, because group/community has coordinated

with each other to implement common specified projects between communities, such as saving, eviction, housing improvement and general income, which are taken in as contexts of urban problems.

3) The community network that has organized mainly in informal sectors, should be taken up as activities to make a breakthrough in regional planning. It would be noted for making sure of sustainable environment, because it connects with each community, which has different environmental subjects and living styles, to support members' lives with mutual interchanges of information. The community network has played a role like a facilitator as well with supporting the activities of communities as with being able to take part in the urban society by organizing a mass to catch up with the formal sector.

4) Since ways of community networks have tended to be in popular especially among low-income people in developing countries, they seem to have possibilities to be adapted in developed countries. To make a master plan for a city, activities of saving or working groups pursuing special themes, would play a role of pipe that links "bottom-up" from participating groups and "top-down" from administrative policies.

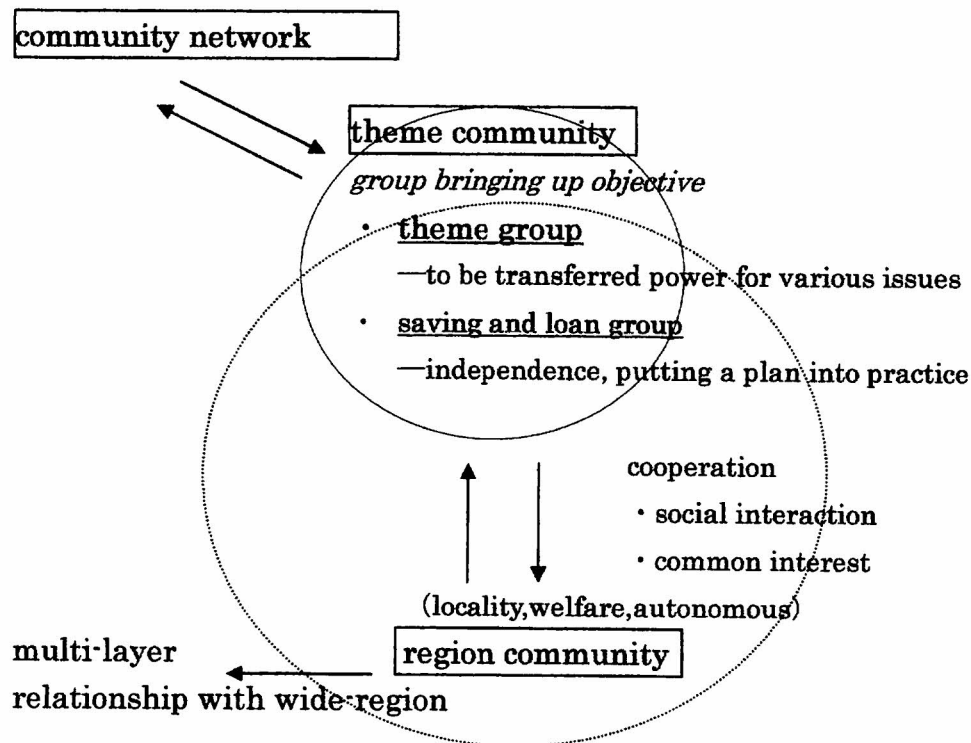
However, keeping on the activities of networks, some considerations should be pointed out. Firstly, a saving group is acknowledged generally as a part of a community, not always representing a whole community. Secondly, network activities mean some dynamic organizational movement being analogous to temporary associations that usually set a term on handling of specific projects.

7-2. Reference to community development (Machizukuri) in Japan

In Japan, decentralization in administrations has accelerated to establish a so-called civil society especially in local areas with these amendments such as introducing participatory ways to make a master plan and securing citizen right of making a proposal to city planning by themselves (City Planning Law 1992, 2002), the establishment of NPO Law (1998), the Free Access to Information Law (2001), the Law of decentralization for administrative reforms (2000). More than 13000 NPO groups have been organized since then and delegations of administrative authority are proceeding.

As participatory ways to make public plans become a popular to a certain degree, many local authorities are rushing to establish Machizukuri ordinances that usually encourage participants to organize committees in communities if they want

to begin Machizukuri voluntarily. Community development seems to get into the new stage in Japan. Highly-motivated citizen has become aware of Machizukuri and organize committees on their initiative, since new urban problems have turned up in rapidly edging and decreasing in population society such as revitalization of central area in a city, control of motorization in urban areas and inducing eco-system to reduce emissions. And, there still be found such difficulties that they should be against bureaucratic vertical division and domineering administration systems if they implement development through their own participatory and process-oriented plan. Though there are many differences in social and political background between two countries, activities of community network as described would have a possibility for a community where organized residents are isolated with lack of knowledge, power and fund. To organize a network successfully, the role of so-called “theme community” like Arkarm Songkroh that have a clear theme and an autonomous group is essential (Figure 10). The role and motivation of a theme community should be so tentative that they finish after accomplishment. Since network have to be organized in a vertical relationship even in that of a theme community and the others, also be it would lead to establish a new public domain through its participatory ways in community developments.



For the establishment to a new public sphere

Figure 10; role of a theme community

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- i) Miyazawa fund : Japanese government indicated A New Initiative to Overcome the Asian Currency Crisis : New Miyazawa Initiative to assist Asian countries in overcoming their economic difficulties and to contribute to the stability of international financial markets in 1998. To be prepared to meet these needs such as facilitation of trade finance, Japan has set aside US\$15 billion in short-term funds which will take the form of swap arrangements. The support to Thailand amounts approximately to the Yen equivalent to U.S. \$ 1,850 Million in total respectively, in which 240 million Baht has been disbursed to 66 networks through CODI.
 - ii) DANCED fund : Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development UCOD came to use DANCED fund with 1.3 million dollars, DANCED fund is used urban environmental projects. They are used mainly water supply, electric supply, drainage, constructing community square and road, etc.
 - iii) SIF fund : Social Investment Fund is the fund of World Bank. 238million Baht has been disbursed to 88 networks.